



Linking End-of-Course Test Scores to Classroom Letter Grades: Kentucky Department of Education Recommendation

It is the Kentucky Board of Education's (KBE) goal for each public high school student to graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary to qualify for and succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing postsecondary coursework without the need for remediation or entry into career opportunities. To support this goal, KBE approved the end-of-course (EOC) assessment model. The EOC system contains rigorous and consistent course expectations to support the goal of college and career readiness.

The KBE has recommended the EOC test results be used as 20% of a student's final grade in the course, as determined by local policy. All districts will be asked to **update** a survey regarding inclusion of EOC test results in course grades. Regulation requires each school district including EOC test results at less than 20% report to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) the percentage used and provide justification for the decision.

Background

During past three school years, Kentucky students took the EOC assessments as they completed Algebra II, English II, Biology and U.S. History. The grading scale, used during the first year of EOC testing, was reviewed and revised based on Kentucky students' performance. The grading scale was statistically reviewed after the second year of EOC testing and **the scale remains the same**.

Linking Process

With Kentucky student scores as a basis, a group of stakeholders representing teachers, high school principals, District Assessment Coordinators (DACs), instructional supervisors, superintendents, and postsecondary provided guidance on creating the statistical link between EOC scale scores and the ACT college readiness benchmarks adopted by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE). They also provided assistance on setting the novice, apprentice, proficient and distinguished (NAPD) student performance levels. The performance levels for NAPD included students complete EOC tests (multiple-choice sections and the constructed response section).

With the performance levels set, the committee recommended the classroom grading scale. The grading scale includes only student performance on the multiple-choice sections of the EOC tests. Students scoring at or above the College Readiness Benchmark are on track to be proficient or distinguished within the Unbridled Learning Accountability Model.

Grade Recommendation

KDE is recommending a letter grade for EOC inclusion rather than a percentage because of the great variety of grading scales used in Kentucky districts and schools. To convert a letter grade into a percentage for inclusion in a teacher's grade book, local decisions must be made.

There are several different approaches that can be taken to develop a local grade scale. A few examples are:

- 1) Create a new local scale using the updated KDE-recommended scale below. Approaches to developing a new scale may include:
 - a. dividing percentages for the letter grade equally across the EOC scale-score range (For example, there are percentages associated with A-, A and A+.);
 - b. all students in the range receive the highest percentage the school uses for the letter grade. (For example, in Biology all students scoring 156-154 receive the highest percentage for a B.);
 - c. all students in the range receive the middle percentage the school uses for the letter grade. (For example, in Biology all students scoring 156-154 receive the middle percentage for a B.); or
 - d. all students in the range receive the lowest percentage the school uses for the letter grade. (For example, in Biology all students scoring 156-154 receive the lowest percentage for a B.)
- 2) Continue to use the grade scale developed for the first year for EOC, 2011-12; or
- 3) Adopt a grade scale from another source (i.e., neighboring district).

Local school or district leadership is encouraged to provide direction on how individual teachers convert the recommended letter grade to a percentage that will be incorporated into the teacher's grade book.

The KDE recommended link between EOC scale scores and course letter grade is outlined in the following table.

STATE-REQUIRED END-OF-COURSE EXAMS RECOMMENDED LINK TO CLASSROOM LETTER GRADES (Based on Multiple-Choice Sections)						
Subject	A	B	C	D	F	CPE-linked College Readiness Benchmark
English II	175-160	159-154	153-152	151-141	140-125	154
Algebra II	175-151	150-148	147-143	142-138	137-125	148
Biology	175-157	156-154	153-146	145-140	139-125	154
U.S. History	175-151	150-147	146-144	143-139	138-125	147